enough lead time to alert those living in our coastal areas. Thus, however, has nothing to do with early detection of an impending earthquake.

Meteorological informations to farmers

†401. SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL: Will the Minister of EARTH SCIENCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Meteorological Department has not yet attained the capability of making available the meteorological information relevant for farmers to all regions and agro-climatic conditions on time;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the Agri-metro Commission of World Meteorological Organisation his impressed upon implementing new technolgies in order to make available meteorological information to all the farmers of the world, including India on time; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EARTH SCIENCES (SHRI KAPIL SIBAL): (a) to (c) It is a fact that the India Meteorological Department (IMD) has not yet attained the capability of making available the kind of meteorological information which our farmers are looking for in respect of their requirements while cultivating their land. The information available thus far is neither district specific nor field specific. The Commission of Agricultural Meteorological (CAgM) of World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) has recommended strengthening of agrometeorology services and use of advanced information technology to address agricultural hazards and early warning. However, the IMD is able in the short term to disseminate information to our farmers in respect of regional agro-climatic conditions. Such information, however, is not the kind of information that needs to be disseminated to the farmers for helping them in their agricultural activities. However, steps are being taken in the Ministry to modernize equipments and instrumentation for more accurate and area specific agro-climate information for dissemination at the district level. This requires huge investments and restructuring of manpower. The Ministry is taking appropriate steps to provide such infomration to our farmers.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.